

members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Houston is home to one of the largest populations of military service members and their families in the nation. There are over 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan. For the brave men and women who have been wounded in combat, help is on the way.

Although some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye they are still wounds that should be properly treated. One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

Jackson Lee Amendment #5 will improve the efficiency of the management system and how the Department of Defense inventory will support modernization that uses technology to tag and track items purchased to increase transparency to the agency on what it has and where it is located. This change could mean tens of millions in savings if implemented DoD wide by reducing labor cost for tracking and moving equipment, but more important prevent repurchasing of items that agency already owns, but may not be able to locate.

The private sector has leaped forward in using inventory tracking technology and protocols to monitor large and small products from the time they leave manufacturing facilities until they are sold at retail or wholesale stores.

The DoD is one of the largest customers for products in the nation and should have the benefit of the best knowledge and technology available to more efficiently manage its inventory.

The most advanced warehouse inventory management systems are fully automated and biometrically controlled to track items and create records of people who make request to transport items from storage to use. These systems make sure that persons seeking to move items have the authority to do so and that the requests create records that can be tracked as well as track the items moved. These fully automated warehouses have no staff, but rely upon technology that is designed to store and retrieve items in the most cost effective and efficient manner possible.

Jackson Lee Amendment #5 will extend economic opportunity to small businesses by requiring DoD to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and minorities before conversion of certain functions to contractor performance would aid the economy. Federal contracting can be an important revenue source for businesses of any size. In fiscal year 2011, federal agencies obligated a total of around \$537 billion in government contracts to businesses. However, federal agencies' goal for contracting with women and minority owned businesses is five percent.

The Department of Defense is a major consumer of products and services that range from office products to military specific equipment. The wide ranges of business opportunities provide ample reasons to engage women and minority owned businesses as contractors or subcontractors.

In addition to the Jackson Lee Amendments offered to this bill, I joined my Colleagues on the Committee on Homeland Security in supporting an amendment to promote collabora-

tion and cooperation between the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security regarding the identification of equipment, either declared excess, or made available to DHS on a long-term loan basis that will help increase security along the border.

I also request that my colleagues support another amendment that I joined in sponsoring along with the leadership of the House Committee on Homeland Security which would allow the transfer of technology from DoD to state and local law enforcement. Before the creation of DHS a program was created to facilitate this type of equipment transfer and this amendment adds the Secretary of Homeland Security in a consultative role in the equipment transfer process. This amendment also gives applicants seek DoD equipment for use in border security preference in this statute. This will facilitate expedited transfer of equipment that Federal, state and local first responders can use to strengthen our border security efforts.

I do have grave concerns about some features of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. For example this bill assumes adoption of the House Budget Resolution framework, which would hurt our economy and require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities. This is a serious concern for me because of how it would impact my constituents in the 18th Congressional District.

The Administration has communicated that it would veto this bill in its current form and I hope that the conference process will resolve the issues that are the most troubling like the treatment of the Guantanamo detainees. This issue is a mark against everything the United States stands for and it is damaging our reputation and credibility around the world.

The detentions should end and people properly processed to other facilities or tried in courts of law to address charges or crimes against the United States. My hope is that this provision will be dropped from the bill as the legislative process goes forward.

We must continue to direct our efforts as a body to ensure that our troops remain the best equipped and prepared military force in the world. They are not just soldiers they are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters—they are some of the people we represent as members of Congress. Support of them is a sacred obligation of Congress both to those who are at risk on battlefields and serving as the guard against threats around the world, but they are also those who have returned home from war.

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this bill.

HONORING ROY APSELOFF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exemplary public servant, Roy Apseloff. After 32 years of service, Mr. Apseloff will be retiring from the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Apseloff is a native of Kent, Ohio and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Cornell University. He continued his education earning a Master of Arts in International

Relations from Catholic University and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College. He began his career with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1981 as a U.S. Navy Officer assigned to the Directorate for Collection. Mr. Apseloff transitioned to civilian service in 1985 and since then he has held a series of positions of increasing responsibility within human intelligence and collection operations.

Mr. Apseloff will be retiring from the Defense Intelligence Agency as the Vice President for Information Management and Deputy CIO; he also serves as the Deputy Chief of a Global Information Technology organization of over 3,000 people and \$1 billion that provides IT support to 20,000 customers worldwide. In addition, Mr. Apseloff serves on various senior interagency boards and forums. Despite leaving for civilian service in 1985, Mr. Apseloff continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve until his retirement in 2003 with the rank of captain. His many reserve assignments included: Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer. His longtime service in the U.S. Navy is yet another testament to his long career of service to his country.

Mr. Apseloff's exemplary work ethic has been recognized by the many awards and distinctions he has received in his 32 years with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He has received the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, the DIA Director's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service, and the Defense Intelligence Director's Award.

I want to extend my warm and sincere thanks to Roy Apseloff for his life's devotion to serving his country. His long and illustrious career with the United States Navy and The Defense Intelligence Agency will not be forgotten. I would like to wish him congratulations on all he has accomplished and all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM E. THRASH

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Kennesaw City Councilman William E. "Bill" Thrash, and thank him for his service to country and community.

After a long battle with cancer, Bill passed away on May 22.

A native of Texas, Thrash grew up in Oklahoma before serving in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, and the Colorado National Guard. After his service, he attended nursing school and was an EMT/paramedic in his early career before moving into the security management business.

In 1992, Thrash moved to Kennesaw and began looking to ways that he could serve the community. He served on the Kennesaw Development Authority, the Downtown Development Authority, the Recreation and Culture Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission before his election to city council in 2001. At the time of his passing, he was serving his third term after being re-elected in 2010, and being named Mayor Pro-Tem in 2011.